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REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 3 -14, 16-17 and 21-30 are pending in the application, of which claims 1 and 17 are being amended and claims 21-30 are being added. Claims 2 and 15 are being canceled and incorporated into claim 1.

Claims 18-20, which were withdrawn by the Examiner due to the restriction requirement and based upon Applicant's election to pursue claims 1-17, are being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

The amendments are fully supported by the Specification and original Claims, and add no new matter. For example, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the language from canceled claims 2, 15 and the Specification on pages 9 and 10. Entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the present case is thus respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner rejected claims 2-5 and 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner stated that "claims 2-5 and 12-15 recite that the hollow collar is fit into the wall; however, Figure 1 and page 7, lines 27-28 of the specification indicates that the hollow collar 200 is fit into the liners 176, 180."

The wall is defined to include a liner, as stated at page 4 of the Specification: "[t]he magnet assembly can be snap fitted onto a wall of the chamber, such as a liner or external wall." Further, at page 5, second paragraph it is stated: "[t]he walls 115 can also include liners 176, 180, as described below." Even further, a wall may be defined as "a layer of material that encloses space." *WordNet* ® 2.0, © 2003

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Princeton University. Notably, a chamber liner or an anode or cathode liner encloses a space defined by the liner. Therefore, claims 2-5 and 12-15 are definite and thus, the Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be removed.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102

1. The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 6-8 and 13-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0192646 issued to Wu et al. ("Wu et al.").

Anticipation requires that all of the elements and limitations of the claim are found within a single prior art reference. There must be no difference between the claimed invention and the reference disclosure, as viewed by a person of ordinary skill in the field of the invention." Scripps Clinic & Research Found. V. Genentech Inc., 18 USPQ 2d 1001, 1010 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Claim 1

Independent claim 1 as amended recites, inter alia, a hollow collar comprising a cross-section that is absent seams, the collar having an open end face, and the collar sized to be capable of diametrically expanding to snap fit a wall of the process chamber; a cap to seal the open end face; and a plurality of magnets in the hollow collar, the magnets being insertable through the open end face.

Claim 1 is not anticipated by Wu et al. because Wu et al. does not teach all the elements and limitations of the claim. Specifically, Wu et al. does not teach "the collar sized to be capable of diametrically expanding to snap fit a wall of the process chamber" as recited in amended independent claim 1. Instead Wu et al. discloses:

...a magnetic assembly 110 comprising, as shown in FIG.3., an annular housing 140 having a radially outward face 132 and a radially inwardly facing opening

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130, a cover plate 120 to seal the radially inwardly facing opening 130, a cover plate 120 to seal the radially inwardly facing opening 130, and a plurality of magnets 150 in the annular housing 140.

(Wu et al., page 3, paragraph [0049], lines 1-6.)

However, Wu et al. does not teach or suggest the annular housing to be capable of diametrically expanding to snap fit a wall of a process chamber as claimed in claim 1. Therefore, Wu et al. does not anticipate claim 1 or the claims dependent therefrom because Wu et al. does not disclose each and every element of amended claim 1.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

1. The Examiner rejected claims 4-5 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu et al..

To establish obviousness, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. In re Royka, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). "All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art." In re Wilson, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970).

Claim 1

Amended claim 1 is to a magnet assembly for a plasma process chamber. The magnet assembly comprises a hollow collar comprising a cross-section that is absent seams. The collar has an open end face and the collar is sized to be capable of diametrically expanding to snap fit a wall of the process chamber. The magnet assembly further comprises a cap to seal the open end face and a plurality of magnets in the hollow collar. The magnets are insertable through the open end face.

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Claim 1 is patentable over Wu et al. because Wu et al. does not teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 1, such as, the hollow collar sized to be capable of diametrically expanding to snap fit a wall of the process chamber. As previously discussed above, Wu et al. makes no mention of the capability of the annular housing to expand. Further, Wu et al. does not teach or suggest the feature of the annular housing sized to be capable of snap-fitting a wall of a process chamber.

The diametric expansion of the hollow collar is advantageous in that it allows for snap fitting of the collar to the groove in the wall (or liner) of the process chamber. Being able to snap fit the collar to the wall allows for replacement of the magnet assembly as a complete assembly, resulting in efficiency through modularity. Further, as described in the Specification on page 10, a diametrically expanding collar that snap-fits a wall allows for relatively flexible manipulation in space of the magnet assembly about the liner or wall in the process chamber. Another advantage of having a diametrically expandable collar that snap-fits a wall is that when the expanded collar is releasably applied to the wall, it reverts to its original diameter and securely grips the circumference of the wall.

Thus, Wu et al. does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of amended claim 1. Therefore, amended claim 1 and the claims dependent directly or indirectly therefrom are patentable over Wu et al.. Notably, claims 4-5 and 12 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1.

2. The Examiner rejected claims 9-11 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wu et al. in view of International Publication No. WO 01/91164 issued to Quiles et al. ("Quiles et al.").

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As discussed above with respect to amended claim 1, Wu et al. does not teach or suggest all the limitations of claim 1 because Wu et al. does not teach or suggest a hollow collar sized to be capable of diametrically expanding to snap fit a wall of the process chamber, as in amended claim 1.

Quiles et al. fails to make up for the deficiencies of Wu et. al. because Quiles et al. also does not teach a hollow collar capable of diametrically expanding to snap fit a wall of the process chamber. Instead, Quiles et al. teaches:

The set of three magnets includes a pair of magnets 182, 184 connected by a steel bar 186 is housed within the interior region 132 of the wafer support 130, and is preferably attached to the interior surface of the wall 134 of the workpiece support 130...On the opposite side of the pumping annulus 140 and facing the center of the horseshoe magnet is the third magnet, namely a single individual magnet 188 which is attached to the outer surface of the side wall 110. The three magnets 182, 184, 188 constitute what is referred to in this specification as a tri-magnet apparatus.

(Quiles et al., page 6, lines 21-29.)

Thus, the combination of Wu et al. and Quiles et al. does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of amended claim 1. Therefore, amended claim 1 and the claims dependent directly or indirectly therefrom are patentable over Quiles et al.. Notably, claims 9-11 and 17 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1.

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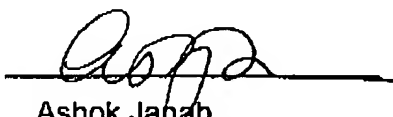
CONCLUSION

The above-discussed amendments are believed to place the present application in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the above remarks, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
JANAH & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Date: August 15, 2006

By: _____


Ashok Janah
Reg. No. 37,487

Please direct all telephone calls to: Ashok K. Janah at (415) 538-1555.

Please send correspondence to:

Janah & Associates, P.C.
650 Delancey Street, Suite 106
San Francisco, CA 94107

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